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AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Please amend pending claims 1-5, 8, 9, 13-17, 20, and 21 as indicated below. A complete listing of all claims in the application is as follows:

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1. (currently amended) ~~A method for using a computer system for interacting with a processing system to process a microdevice comprising the steps of:~~
~~providing processing and programming information related to a microdevice as a task;~~
A method for processing microdevices comprising:
providing a computer system having processing information related to the microdevices as a task;
providing a legacy processing system;
providing a non-legacy processing system;
~~assembling the processing and programming information for the task in the computer system;~~
providing the task from the computer system to the legacy processing system with constant interaction therebetween;
~~providing the processing and programming information for the task for off-line connection from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system for performing the task by the non-legacy processing system independent of the computer system;~~
~~performing the task by the processing system independent of the computer system using processing and programming information obtained through the off-line connection;~~
developing return non-legacy information resulting from the non-legacy processing system using the processing information task; and
returning the return non-legacy information through the off-line connection to the computer system.

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2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~including the steps of additionally comprising:~~

providing a ~~processing system including a~~ microdevice programming system in the legacy processing system, the legacy processing system having an on-line connection with said computer system; and

~~providing the processing and programming information for the microdevices in the microdevice programming system using the task for provided through the on-line connection from the computer system to the processing system system;~~
and

~~performing the task by the processing system dependent on the computer system using processing and programming information obtained through the on-line connection~~

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~including the steps of additionally comprising:~~

providing an operator mode;

providing a microdevice programming system in the non-legacy processing system, the microdevice programming system standing alone from the computer system;

using the processing information for the task in the operator mode in the non-legacy processing system independent from the computer to the processing system;

returning the return information in the operator mode from the non-legacy processing system using portable medium through the off-line connection to the computer system; and

storing the return information in the computer system.

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~including the steps of additionally comprising:~~

providing an administrator mode;

~~inputting~~ providing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

editing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

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storing the processing and programming information related to the microdevices for the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system as the task in the administrator mode.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 including ~~the steps of~~ additionally comprising:

providing processing system setup and shutdown parameters;

providing processing system process-specific parameters;

~~sending~~ providing the processing system setup parameters to the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the non-legacy processing system simultaneously with the processing system setup parameters;

~~inputting~~ providing the number of processed microdevices to be output from the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;

~~sending~~ providing processing system process-specific parameters to the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system;

controlling the handling of the microdevices;

processing the microdevices; and

~~sending~~ providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the legacy processing system.

6. (original) The method as claimed in claim 5 including the steps of:

providing a number of microdevices;

determining the number of microdevices processed;

determining the number of microdevices handled; and

developing statistics from the number of microdevices processed and handled.

7. (original) The method as claimed in claim 5 including the steps of:

serializing the microdevices; and

maintaining a log of the serialized microdevices.

8. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~including the steps of~~ additionally comprising:

combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and

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performing the processing of a kit ~~through the off-line connection~~ in the legacy processing system and the non-legacy processing system.

9. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~including the steps of~~ additionally comprising:

providing microdevice information;

providing processing system setup parameters;

providing format information related to the ~~off-line connection~~ non-legacy processing system;

inputting the number of processed microdevices to be output from the non-legacy processing system;

providing the processing system setup parameters and format to the non-legacy processing system;

transferring the microdevice information from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system;

transferring the processing system format from the computer system to the non-legacy processing system;

processing the microdevices;

obtaining information from the processing of the microdevices; and

transferring the information from the processing of the microdevices to the computer system.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of: transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

11. (original) The method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of: transferring includes the use of a direct communication connection.

12. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of providing an administrator mode; and protecting provision of the operator mode using a password input in the administrator mode.

13. (currently amended) ~~A method for using a computer system for interacting with a programmer/feeder system to process a programmable microdevice comprising the steps of:~~

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A method for processing and programming programmable microdevices comprising:

~~providing programming information related to a programmable microdevice as a task;~~
~~assembling providing a computer system having processing information and the~~
~~programming information related to the programmable microdevices combined~~
~~as a for the task in the computer system;~~

providing a legacy processing system;

providing a programmer/feeder system;

~~providing the processing and programming information for the task for off-line~~
~~connection from the computer system to the programmer/feeder programming~~
~~system;~~

~~performing the task by the programmer/feeder system independent of the computer~~
~~system using by processing and programming information obtained through~~
~~the off-line connection the programmable microdevices;~~

~~developing return programmer/feeder information resulting from the~~
~~programmer/feeder system using the processing information; and~~

~~returning the return programmer/feeder information through the off-line connection to~~
~~the computer system.~~

14. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 ~~including the~~
~~steps of~~ additionally comprising:

~~providing a processing and a microdevice programming system in the~~
~~programmer/feeder system, the programmer/feeder system having an on-line~~
~~connection with said computer system; and~~

~~providing the processing and programming information for the task for on-line~~
~~connection from the computer system to the programming system;~~

~~performing the task by the programming system programmer/feeder dependent on the~~
~~computer system using programming information obtained through the on-line~~
~~connection.~~

15. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 ~~including the~~
~~steps of~~ additionally comprising:

providing an operator mode;

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using portable memory medium to provide the processing and programming information for the task in the operator mode to the programmer/feeder system independent from the computer to the processing system;

returning the return programmer/feeder information in the operator mode through the off-line connection using the portable memory medium to the computer system;
and

storing the return programmer/feeder information in the computer system.

16. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of comprising:

providing an administrator mode;

inputting providing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode;

editing the processing and programming information related to the task in the administrator mode; and

storing the processing and programming information related to the programmable microdevices for the legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system as the task in the administrator mode.

17. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of comprising:

providing processing programmer/feeder system setup and shutdown parameters;

providing programmer/feeder processing system process-specific parameters;

sending providing the processing programmer/feeder system setup parameters off line to the programming system legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system;

providing the processing system shutdown parameters to the programmer/feeder system simultaneously with the processing system parameters;

inputting providing the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system;

sending providing the processing programmer/feeder system process-specific parameters to the programming legacy processing system and the programmer/feeder system;

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controlling the handling of the programmable microdevices;
programming the programmable microdevices; and
~~sending providing the programmer/feeder~~ processing system shutdown parameters to
the ~~programming legacy~~ processing system.

18. (original) The method as claimed in claim 17 including the steps of:
providing a number of programmable microdevices;
determining the number of programmable microdevices processed;
determining the number of programmable microdevices handled; and
developing statistics from the number of programmable microdevices processed and
handled.

19. (original) The method as claimed in claim 17 including the steps of:
serializing the programmable microdevices; and
maintaining a log of the serialized programmable microdevices.

20. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 ~~including the steps~~
of additionally comprising:

combining a plurality of tasks to define a kit; and
performing the programming of a kit ~~through the off line connection in the legacy~~
processing system and the programmer/feeder.

21. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13 ~~including the steps~~
of additionally comprising:

providing programmable microdevice information;
providing programmer/feeder system setup parameters;
providing format information related to the ~~off line connection~~ programmer/feeder
system;
inputting the number of processed programmable microdevices to be output from the
programmer/feeder system;
providing the programmer/feeder system setup parameters and format to the
programmer/feeder system;
transferring the programmable microdevice information from the computer system to
the processing system;

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transferring the programmer/feeder system form from the computer system to the programmer/feeder system;

processing the programmable microdevices;

obtaining information from the processing of the programmable microdevices; and

transferring the information from the programming of the programmable microdevices.

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22. (original) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the step of: transferring includes the use of a portable memory medium.

23. (original) The method as claimed in claim 22 wherein the step of: transferring includes the use of a local area network connection.

24. (original) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the steps of: providing an administrator mode; and protecting provision of the operator mode using a password input in the administrator mode.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13 including the step of: providing information for affecting changes selected from a group consisting of software, firmware, and a combination thereof by using a portable memory medium.